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THE TEACHERS' TRIP TO NORTHERN ONTARIO

THE STORY OF A HAPPY WEEK.



CHAS. G. FRASER—Secretary.

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THE TEACHERS' TRIP TO NORTHERN ONTARIO 1920.

THE STORY OF A HAPPY WEEK

Surely no such happy party ever travelled together for a week, or had such a happy time, as the party of Teachers who toured the eastern part of New Ontario during the last week of August of last year. Starting from Toronto on Sunday evening, they returned early the following Sunday morning, after having visited Cobalt, Haileybury, New Liskeard, Englehart, Monteith, Kapuskasing, Smooth Rock Falls, Cochrane, Timmins, Iroquois Falls and Timagami, and the intermediate points. All were out to be pleased. Instructions had been given to store all "grouch" in the baggage car, and it was as clear as a whistle during the whole trip.

In all there were about one hundred and seventy members in the party, representing almost all parts of Ontario — old Ontario and New Ontario — the far east and the far west — while some of the folks of New Ontario joined the party while we were in the North. Each institute had been asked to send two delegates, and these were to report to their institute their impressions of the Great North of our immense province. Those who lived in these Northern parts were said to be great "boosters"; and it was proposed to give representative teachers a chance to see, first-hand, just what the country was like, what opportunities it offered to the sons and daughters of toil, and how these opportunities were being improved by the people who had settled there.

The scheme was a dream of Principal Bryson of Cobalt, who proposed such a trip at the meeting of the Public School Principals of the O. E. A. in the year 1913. His suggestion was that the Government be asked to take a party of 200 teachers through Northern Ontario, to show them the great wealth of that new country and the opportunities it offered. The proposal met with the approval of his fellow-principals at once, and a committee was appointed to place the matter before the Government.

The proposal was laid before the Minister of Education and the Minister of Crown Lands and Mines, and both were very favorably impressed with the advantages it offered; but when inquiry was made as to what it would cost it was found that it would require an appropriation of \$10,000. That seemed forbidding; but the committee promptly proposed to be responsible for half, which would be \$25 each for the 200 teachers.

Just then the Great War broke out and loyal Ontario vied with the other parts of the Empire in bending every energy to the winning of the struggle. No dollar was spared for anything but essentials; and every car was devoted to the work of meeting the great transportation problem which confronted us. Under these cir-

circumstances the trip to Northern Ontario was laid aside for the time being. It was not forgotten, however; for, while every one labored he looked confidently forward to the successful conclusion of the struggle — an expectation that was amply justified but was dearly attained.

When the war was finally ended in 1918, and peace declared, the project was again taken up and might have been realized in 1919, but for the unfavorable season. Then came the change of Government; but the proposal was laid before the new Minister of Education, who, in time, placed it before Premier Drury, his chief. It seemed to appeal to both of them, and Mr. Grant promised to have an appropriation placed in the supplementary estimates to defray the Government's share of the trip, expressing the hope that he would be included in the party.

The original committee consisted of A. E. Bryson (chairman), Charles G. Fraser (secretary), Martin Kerr, Henry Ward (since deceased), Samuel Nethercott, John Munro, R. M. Speirs and W. F. Moore. To these were afterwards added Captain Magladery and Major Lang, the members of the Legislature for Timiskaming; W. J. Thomson of Toronto, Charles E. Kelly of Hamilton, and J. L. Stewart of North Bay. The itinerary was planned by a committee of the Northern people, including Inspectors Bannister and Wilson, and Principal Dakin, while the mayors of the Northern towns and the presidents and secretaries of the Boards of Trade and the School Boards lent themselves heartily to the project. No wonder it was such a success.

It was proposed to have a train consisting of six Pullman cars, a dining car, and a baggage car. This was to be the home of the party for the week — their headquarters during the day and their sleeping place at night — moving about from place to place, if during the day, to see the beauty of the landscape, and if at night, they were to reach the next place of special interest — the gold and silver-mining centres, the great water-power sites, the paper-making plants, or the great clay-belt country with its fine buildings and good crops, at that time of the year at their best.

Who should be chosen as members of the party cost much careful thought. It would not do for the members of the committee to choose their personal friends for the privilege, so it was finally decided to ask each Institute to choose two delegates; and for fear that one of these delegates could not go, each Institute was to choose an alternative. These selections were to be reported to the Secretary of the Committee on, or before, the 1st of June. The delegates were then to be notified of the privilege, and if they accepted it they were to make a deposit of ten dollars before the end of

June, to show their good faith; and if they were accepted, they were to make the final deposit of thirty dollars before the 1st day of August.

It had been estimated that the trip would cost somewhere in the vicinity of \$80. The Government proposed to pay half of this; and it was suggested that the Institutes should pay one-half of the balance, thus treating their representatives as delegates to the O. E. A.—which they really were. The report that they would bring back would amply justify the expenditure.

When the end of June came there were really not half enough to form the party. This is not to be wondered at, because it was the first trip of its kind, and the teachers had little idea of what a treat was in store for those who went, or what a privilege was offered to them. Some of the Institutes did not see any value in the opportunity and at first declined to appoint a delegate; but individual teachers urged their appointment, and "had their claims allowed." In the communication that was sent out notifying the delegates that they had been accepted it was mentioned that there was "room for five or six more," and the applications began to come in. As a matter of fact, no one was refused, although a few had to sleep two in a berth—the slightest ones being selected for that honor.

Great care was taken to provide for every contingency. There was no confusion at the Union Station. The railway tickets were ready to be handed out and checked off; and each one was told the number of the car to which he or she had been assigned, as shown by the alphabetical list in the hands of the Secretary. The plan for each car was in the hands of the member of the committee who had been placed in charge of that car. Mr. W. J. Thomson had charge of Car 1; Mr. Charles E. Kelly had Car 2; Mr. R. M. Speirs had Car 3; Mr. John Munro had Car 4; Mr. W. F. Moore had Car 5; and Secretary Fraser had charge of Car 6; while Chairman Bryson, in Car 6, had a fatherly care over the whole train.

Each of these committeemen received the members of the party which had been assigned to his car and gave them their berths, upper or lower, according to the plan which had been prepared by the Secretary. As far as possible, the lower berths were given to the older members of the party and the Secretaries, or those who, by years of service, had become outstanding members of their Institute, and had earned the favor. Should there be another trip, the Secretary will have to know the teaching experience and the physical proportions of each member of the party. In a few cases exchanges were arranged, to accommodate special friendships; but the plan as proposed obtained generally, and all soon became warm

friends, the members of an affectionate family circle, Secretary Fraser being the chief exponent of the new life.

Leaving Toronto after church service, the train sped to the North, calling at Aurora, Allandale and Barrie, Orillia, Gravenhurst and Huntsville, the Secretary taking in a few members of the party at each of these stopping places, and assigning them to their proper berths. The last ones were received at about 2 o'clock in the morning. All settled down for a good sleep while the train sped on; and when the day dawned we were in the North with its characteristic rocks and lakes and forests. The first night and the morning were cool — the coolest we experienced on the whole trip, for we were favored all week with the most charming weather, old Sol vying with the people in extending to us a very warm reception.

Usually there is a variety of risers in such a party. There are those who rise with the lark and greet the morning sun when he first peeps over the eastern hills; there are also those who "hug the hay" till the sun has climbed half-way up the sky; and there are the reasonable people who rise somewhere between these extremes. That morning early rising was to all of us, like a piggy's tail — twirly. Someone has said that he could not endure an early riser — he was so vain the first half of the day, and so sleepy and stupid the second half, that he was fit company for no one.

Our party was an exception. All rose at a "reasonable" hour, and their happy hearts were reflected in their smiling faces. Their cheery morning greetings to each other was a benediction, and then they opened their hampers of good things which they had provided on the suggestion of the Secretary. When the train pulled into the station at Cobalt they were so cordially received by the local representatives that they felt at home at once, and enjoyed the warm tea and coffee that had been provided for them at the three local restaurants.

Then the party was divided into two companies. Company A consisted of those in Cars 1, 2 and 3, while Company B consisted of those in Cars 4, 5 and 6. Company A remained in Cobalt to have a chance to see the sights of that mining centre, while Company B had a pleasant ride on the interurban electric railway through Haileybury to New Liskeard, passing miles of beautiful homes that would rival the homes of any part of older Ontario in situation and beauty. We admired, particularly, the gardens of flowers as we skirted the shores of beautiful Lake Timiskaming, which is over ninety miles long.

On reaching New Liskeard Company B found a large number of automobiles waiting to take the party for a thirty-mile drive through a beautiful section of the "clay belt." On that trip all

were amazed and delighted with what we saw. We had expected pioneer conditions — was it not "New Ontario"? — but here we were, travelling swiftly along good country roads, past fine buildings surrounded by fields of grain — some fields standing ready for the reaper, while others were already cut and stooked, or were undergoing these operations. Wide stretches of slightly undulating land lay before us from which the trees had been cleared and the stumps removed.

We were impressed with the indications we saw on all sides of the faith the people have in that great territory, and the evidences of the productiveness of the soil — the crops, the barns, the houses and the excellent roads. On the way we paid a visit to the Hudson Consolidated School, one of the most up-to-date consolidated schools of the whole province, and to which the children of the whole township are brought each morning and taken home each evening. It is of fine appearance from the outside. There are two class-rooms, a teachers' rest-room and a fine, well-lighted basement and play-room. The teachers were pleased to see the fine equipment of the school. Then we paid a visit to the Kennedy farm, with its trim little house, its fine large barn, and its prize stock. Here we saw a new experiment which is likely to be of great importance — a field of sunflower which is to be used instead of corn for silo and feeding purposes.

When arranging for the trip we were given the choice of the week following August 15th or the week following August 22nd, and we chose the latter. Perhaps the choice had fallen that way to avoid breaking into the holidays, so that the trip would come at the conclusion; but it was fortunate for us. We saw the country at its best, and at the same time we had the grandest weather — proverbial "Queen's weather," such as we always have on the 24th of May.

The two companies reached Haileybury about 1 o'clock and we had dinner at the three hotels, as had been arranged. At 2.30 we were the guests of the town of Haileybury on a two-hour trip on the beautiful lake — a charming ride, indeed. Then the members of the party visited the High School of Mines, of which Mr. W. H. Tuke, the principal, and the people of Haileybury are very proud, making provision, as it does, for the training of their young folk in the characteristic activities of the district.

That evening the only little hitch in the whole week occurred. After tea some of the party attended the Chautauqua, while the others went by car to New Liskeard. There the folks had provided a special reception. A game of ball was played and an aviation demonstration was given, while an excellent orchestra had been provided for an evening's dance. Because of our not knowing

this we came late; but the reception was none the less cordial. In future we shall endeavour to know all particulars, so as to avoid such a disappointment to those who are trying to excel themselves in their hospitality.

The Chautauqua programme was much enjoyed, and some of our party were seated so as to have one number, or a series of numbers, that were not mentioned in the programme. One of the young men of the town had been seriously smitten with the personal charms of one of the entertainers, and each time when the two were behind the scenes alone, he took advantage of the opportunity to express his admiration by a series of impassioned affectionate kisses, and which she evidently enjoyed, not knowing that the silhouette thrown upon the curtain gave prompt evidence to those outside of what was occurring there. No one accused him of showing bad taste, as she was a lovely young lady and all were glad in their hearts that he was not hampered by any knowledge of the tell-tale curtain.

Tuesday morning the parties changed. Company A being taken for a drive through the beautiful clay belt, while Company B was taken to the Cobalt mines, where they had a wonderful experience indeed. They were shown the lake that had been pumped dry, the places where seams of almost native silver came to the surface of the ground, and some were taken in the cage down to the levels where mining operations were being carried on. They were also shown the men sorting the ores and preparing the various grades for the operations to which they would be submitted in the process of making the silver bars which some of us would have liked to carry away — as souvenirs, of course.

At 2.30 on Tuesday afternoon a goodly number of the official people of Haileybury accompanied us to the station, where we said good-bye to the town where we had experienced, for the first time, the proverbial pioneer hospitality of the North. Then we sped on, on our way farther North. While at New Liskeard we had received a telegram asking us to make Englehart one of our stopping places that we might see for ourselves what can be done in the way of landscape gardening up there. After an hour's ride, we reached this divisional point on the Government railway, where the T. and N. O. authorities have engaged a specialist in horticulture. The result was most spectacular: the flowers and the shrubbery were delightful, indeed, and the bowling lawn, which they said had been seeded in the spring, was as velvety as a carpet.

The folks were very anxious to have us stop over with them, but we could remain only long enough to change our engine. However, we had time enough to meet some very friendly people, and Mr. Kerrigan, the landscape gardener, took a picture of the whole

party, and one of some of the outstanding members — the Minister of Education and Mrs. Grant, Capt. Magladery, M.P.P., Mrs. Groves, and the members of the committee except Mr. Moore and Mr. Speirs. Then we entrained and sped still farther North.

At 5.30 we reached Monteith, where the Government Farm of 800 acres is situated. It was intended as a training centre for preparing returned soldiers for farm life in the North; but the experiment does not appear to have been a very outstanding success, and it has been changed into a residential school where the children and young people of that great land, with its magnificent distances, are to be gathered, that they may get as good an education as can be obtained in the longer-settled districts, and still be associated with those objects and experiences that are likely to be their constant associations in life.

First, we had a chance to see around the farm, and we were surprised and pleased at the excellence of the various crops and the experimental plots. Then we gathered in the large College Hall where a sumptuous repast was laid out for the whole company — a repast that no member of the party will soon forget. We were as hungry as proverbial bears, and the banquet was prepared to let us see what kind of food they raise on a farm — a Northern farm, a Government farm. Potatoes and meat, and bread and butter, never surpassed; tea and coffee and cream — real cream — and pie that would encourage any company to practice piety. Finally there was ice cream made from pure cream. Do you think we are too enthusiastic in our praise of the banquet that was partaken of at Monteith?

After supper the company gathered in a big adjoining room furnished with a fine large fireplace, a piano, and a floor as smooth as glass. Can it be wondered at if some of the young folks, like Geordie Ritchie, responded to the invitation of the piano and "tripped the light fantastic toe." Addresses were afterwards delivered by Mr. Hanlan, the head of the institution, and Dr. MacDougall, the assistant chief inspector. Mrs. Groves gave two recitations of her own composition, and Miss Hunter delighted us with some singing. After 11 o'clock we wended our way, in twos and threes, back to the train, and soon we were again on our way North.

As an example of the attitude of the people of the North, that was constantly in evidence, we would mention that Mr. Otto Thorning, the Secretary of the Board of Trade at Cochrane, came down to meet us at Monteith, a distance of forty miles, to let us know what their plans were for our entertainment, so that there could be no hitch in the arrangements. He left with us printed cards of invitation to the movies and to the evening dance which they had arranged; and as we passed through Cochrane at 2.30 in the morn-

ing, we were joined by Mr. Stevens, Chairman of the Board of Trade, who said good-bye to us on Saturday night at Timagami. You cannot wonder that Mr. Bryson gave his berth to Mr. Stevens and that the Chairman and the Secretary occupied one berth till they were disturbed by the calf at Kapuskasing.

At 5 o'clock, on Wednesday morning, just as the sun peeped at us, we pulled into Kapuskasing, the place which had been made so notorious as the detention camp during the Great War. A settler had arrived the day before with his effects, and among them a calf that was crated and left at the station. As its way of welcoming us it started to baa-baa-baa, and no one could sleep. At last Mr. Bryson got up and dressed, vowing that he would have fresh veal for breakfast; and just as he climbed down off the car, the train pulled away and left him to do his deed of darkness in private.

How strangely things can be misconstrued, and how often the innocent are cruelly accused. Secretary Fraser was accused of telling stories, at times. Some members of the party went so far as to say he was a persistent, irrepressible, incorrigible story-teller. Some even declared he had kept them awake telling stories to Inspectors Bannister, Wilson and Robinson; but none went so far as Chairman Bryson. At the banquet at Smooth Rock Falls he brazenly declared to the party that he had been compelled to crate the Secretary on Tuesday night, and that the row that had awakened them in the morning was the effort of the Secretary to finish a story. An apology is surely due from Chairman Bryson.

We breakfasted that morning at the big log shanty — the dining-room of the employees of the Metagami Pulp and Paper Company, which was just beginning operations at this place. The food was good "shanty fare" and was much relished by the teachers. Much merriment was indulged in regarding the graniteware dishes and many were in doubt as to whether they were using a cup, or a saucer, or both.

After breakfast we had a chance to see the neighborhood. It had been cleared by the people of the Internment Camp during the war, and the huts in which the prisoners had been kept were still to be seen. The crops were looking fine, and this crop was so good that it was expected to pay for the land and the improvements. The story of this year's operations is quite different from the story of last year's, about which we heard so much in the Legislature. The season of 1919 was so unfavorable and so many of the returned soldiers connected with the enterprise were so unsuited for that work that perhaps it was no wonder they broke out in complaint.

Noon brought us to Smooth Rock Falls, where a great paper-pulp company is carrying on its extensive operations. Here the party had an opportunity of seeing the successive steps in the pro-

cess of changing the trees of the forest into the finished rolls of paper to be sent to the printing press. Some day we shall have the opportunity of describing this most interesting process. Suffice to say here, that Frank Moore and some others of the teachers who got a sniff of the sulphur-room vowed right then and there that they would live a better life.

Smooth Rock Falls is a "closed town"—one belonging wholly to the company. The company owns all the land as well as the houses, and it has the paying of the taxes for the public expenses of the town, including the maintenance of the Public School.

Here a most sumptuous banquet was tendered to us by the Company, and the wives and daughters of the manager and the other officials of the company acted as attendants, treating us as honored brothers and sisters. The whole function was one of the daintiest of the week. The after-dinner speeches were felicitous, and we were indeed pleased to hear the kindly references that Manager Monaghan and others made to our work as teachers, and their expressions of pleasure at having us as the guests of the Northland. Our vote of thanks was proposed by Principal Dearness and Principal John Munro.

At 4 o'clock we reached Cochrane, where we were received, at the station, most cordially, by the Mayor and his associates, the Chairman and Members of the Board of Education and the Board of Trade, and the leading people of the place. We divided into small parties and were shown about the town—the town that had been swept by fire three times, in the past few years; and yet, the faith of the people in the great future of their town, with its unique geographic position as a railway centre, and its great surrounding clay-belt country, is so great that each time a new town has risen from the ashes. "On to James Bay"—meaning the extension of the T. and N. O.—is its present slogan.

While we were welcomed at every centre with a cordiality which we will never forget, each welcome had a unique personality. Here, for the first time, we were the guests of the women, directly; and the ladies of Cochrane—the Women's Institute—gave to the banquet those dainty touches that woman only can to a function. This personal association with the womenfolk at Smooth Rock Falls, Cochrane, Timmins and Iroquois Falls was a unique and delightful feature of our visit. The motherly, sisterly, daughterly way they received us and made our visit so pleasant will long remain in our memories.

After the banquet speeches were indulged in. Principal Sanderson and Editor Dunlop spoke for the party, and the reply was made by Mayor Rothchild himself, who eloquently expressed his

appreciation of the honor that had been shown to Cochrane by our visit, and said that the Town Council wished to show its appreciation in a tangible form by paying the Women's Institute for the repast we had just enjoyed.

While the tables were being removed for the evening function the teachers were the guests of the Board of Trade at the movies; and at 9 o'clock a most enjoyable time was begun at the charming little dance in the town hall. The mothers and the fathers were present as well as the sons and daughters, and to show the spirit that prevailed, we would like to mention that the mothers told their sons, "Now, we want you to dance with the ladies from the South. You can dance with our own girls next week." The dance was attended also by all the bank clerks within a hundred miles of Cochrane, the next day having been declared a bank holiday; and at 1.45 a.m. Mayor Rothchild and his associates—the men and women of Cochrane—escorted us to the station, and as the train pulled out into the darkness of the night, the Cochrane people sang "Good-night, Ladies."

When we awoke on Thursday morning, our train was standing on the siding at Timmins, where the Hollinger Mine, perhaps the most extensive gold-mining plant in the world, is situated. Here a new feature of our trip was met. The ladies of the church furnished our breakfast, dinner and supper, and woman's good name and fame lost nothing by the feature.

After breakfast we assembled in the theatre, where the party was officially welcomed to Timmins by Mayor McInnes, Principal Kelly, his former teacher, making a suitable reply. Then by moving picture we were shown all the operations which are carried on at a modern up-to-date mine. All the special machinery necessary for the producing of gold bricks passed in operation before our wondering gaze.

Autos were then supplied to take the party to the mines, where all mining operations such as blasting had been suspended so that no accident could happen while the teachers, in parties of ten or eleven, were taken down to the 550-foot level, and under the guidance of experienced miners, were shown through a characteristic portion of the mine, with its tunnels, and supports, and electric railways, and auto-dumping cars. Miles and miles of this tunneling had been made and operations had been carried on as deep as the 1500-foot level. The question is: How far down does this gold-bearing rock extend?

Much interest was taken in the machinery that had control of the cage, showing, as it did, where the cage was at any time. One mistake of the operator would mean instant disaster. To conclude

the exhibition, we were shown great bricks of gold, the product of the mine — in charge of three Scotchmen, so that the teachers did not have a ghost of a chance to get one of them — the bricks.

In the afternoon a game of ball was played, the final game between Timmins and Iroquois Falls, and it had all the better features of the close rivalry of two neighboring towns, time being extended to secure a decision. Then, in the evening a dance, in honor of the visitors, was given. Thus a busy day was concluded, and all slept soundly as the train carried us to Iroquois Falls.

First thing in the morning, the Mayor and other official representatives of this "closed town" came down to the train to welcome us and to let us know the programme for the day, which had been carefully prepared and neatly printed. It is whispered by some that they were officially received by Secretary Fraser in his night-robes — a most cordial meeting.

Again, in Iroquois Falls, we were the guests of the ladies of the church for three good meals, fully demonstrating that both churches and ladies are very desirable features of a progressive community. Here the privileges of the shower bath at the Company's Hotel were extended to the men of the party, and a similar favor was extended to our ladies at the private homes. Never, perhaps, in the experience of the party, did the delightful and refreshing luxury of a bath seem so luxurious. Old Sol was smiling down upon us so benignly that he made the mercury creep up to 98 in the shade, and a few members of the party were "under the weather." In official circles it was whispered that they had been drinking — water.

Iroquois Falls is a "closed town," the property of the Abitibi Pulp and Paper Company, and every person in the town is in the service of the company. The usual haphazard plan of a town was not visible here, but every evidence of intelligent, artistic town-planning was to be seen. There was the town park in the centre, the artistic curvatures of the streets surrounding it and the radiating avenues for residences. The artistic appearance of the houses — large, medium and small — and the tree-planting which was going on, all promised "a thing of beauty" for the days to come.

The company's mill was in the process of enlargement which would more than double its capacity and make it the most extensive pulp and paper mill in the world. The great water-power at the disposal of the company supplied unlimited power for carrying on the operations of the mill, and also provided electricity for the lighting of the homes. In days to come, no doubt, the homes will be heated by "white coal" — electricity generated from this great water-power.

To those of us who, in our early days, had to saw the wood that was required to feed the stoves in the kitchen, the shop, the parlor and the bedroom, the company's "pile of wood," awaiting the operations of the mill, called up most disquieting memories. The pile seemed to reach the sky, and although it was composed of logs, it appeared to be a mammoth assemblage of those "sticks" we used to provide so laboriously for daily consumption, in "those good old times." That pile of logs can be seen from any part of the town. They are to be transformed into great rolls of beautiful white paper and should be a constant reminder to the boys and girls of the possibilities of attainment in their own lives.

The visit to the mill was indeed a trip to fairyland. The teachers were divided into little parties and escorted through the mills by capable officials who understood the processes thoroughly. Each step in the operation was explained while the fairy transformation took place under our eyes. The logs were ground into pulp, the mass was bleached, the soupy liquid which held the fibre in solution, so to speak, was poured over the surface screens, the water was then drawn off and the thin mat of sediment adhering together made the web of paper that rolled off before our wondering gaze.

As we stood watching the forming of that web of paper, twelve feet wide and miles and miles in length, and noticed that at the proper moment the sustaining screen was taken from below the sediment, compelling it to assume its individual and independent strength, and from being a strengthless, watery aggregation, it was changed into a unified web with such wonderful possibilities, as the paper was passed over the hot cylinders, we were reminded of what a beautiful, useful and powerful web the teachers of Ontario might become by proper organization and cohesion. Will the day ever come when such an ideal will be realized?

After dinner the party was formally received at a meeting in the town hall where Secretary Fraser presided, and a programme of music and addresses was enjoyed. The address of welcome was given by Mr. McManus, the manager of the company, and music and singing was supplied by local talent. Then the marvellous modern "movie" was called into service and the steps in the process of paper-making were shown with demonstrations of the principles underlying the process and the comparative values of the different classes of wood that, at the present time, are used for the purpose of paper-making. Then Rev. W. M. Morris, organizing secretary of the Trustees' Department of the Ontario Educational Association, and Miss M. E. Cherry, moved the vote of thanks, making special mention of the "Ladies of the North."

Surely God was good to our party and sent His angel to clear our way. Only once, so far as we know, during the whole week, did danger threaten our party. A company of our ladies and one of our most trusted, honored men went for a trip on the river. Something went wrong with the gasoline motor and a match was used with serious effect. The tank caught fire and was thrown out upon the water, and there was the boat, without oars, afloat upon the river above the falls. Fortunately the calls of the party attracted some one and brought help, and words of gratitude reached the Great Father of us all from many of our hearts that night.

That evening a most enjoyable dance was held in the town hall. The spacious room was beautifully decorated with spruce boughs and trees, reminding some of us of school's and churches at Xmas time in days long past; and to complete the Christmas conception the boughs were lighted with electric bulbs the color of holly-berries. The soft effect of this lighting changed the room into a corner of fairyland, while the aroma of the newly-cut spruce boughs was refreshing indeed.

The company seems to omit nothing that would add to the comfort of the employees and the efficiency of their work. It is the custom, we believe, to have a weekly dance, so that the young people can meet and enjoy themselves under proper auspices. The floor was in charming condition and the whole company was affability itself, while the buffet luncheon was daintiness and generosity personified. It was no wonder Secretary Fraser, who acted as chaperone for the occasion, had hard work to get the young folk away. "Just one dance more," could not help but touch that indulgent heart with which the Secretary is equipped.

But the time came for the train to pull out. We had a long way to go, and soon all except a couple who had the anxiety of a sick member of the party on their hearts, got to bed and to sleep, while the train reached the main track and sped swiftly away to the South; and when the day dawned we were at Timagami. Refreshed by a good night's rest, we arose, dressed and breakfasted, and at 9.00 o'clock we were all aboard Capt. Marsh's staunch little vessel "The Belle of Timagami." With steady keel we ploughed our way through the glassy surface of the beautiful lake, past lovely scenery, romantic camping sites and historic fur-trading places, past numberless islands of entrancing situation and beauty, and stretches of primeval forest as yet unravaged by the fire demon.

By noon we reached the Keewaydin Kamp ("K. K. K."), the end of our charming thirty-five-mile trip, where Capt. Marsh had arranged for dinner for us. Here a camp of Americans — fine fellows we found them — have an educational summer camp. Some

of our party were annoyed to see "Old Glory," the Stars and Stripes, floating alone from the flagstaff at the landing-place. They refused to proceed; but the difficulty was quickly arranged when the Secretary placed the matter before the one in charge of the camp, and we had the pleasure of seeing the Union Jack, the Stars and Stripes, and the "camp flag" floating from the same flagstaff. Principal Ritchie has a snapshot to commemorate the incident, the Secretary helping his American cousin to run up the three flags.

Here the party was to dine together for the last time, and the Minister of Education was expected to deliver his address of the week. The tables were laid out in the immense log building that was used as dining-hall; and it was sufficiently commodious to allow the one hundred and eighty members of the party to sit down together.

After dinner the toast to "The King" was honored, and then the health of the Honorable R. H. Grant, Minister of Education, was proposed by Principal Kelly and Principal Moore. In his reply Mr. Grant spoke of the uninterrupted and unalloyed pleasure the trip had been to Mrs. Grant and himself, and he assured the company that if this trip should be the last of its kind it would be the fault of the teachers. He declared that his interest in education was of long standing, and that he considered his Portfolio of Education second to none in the Cabinet; and in the conducting of the business of that department he would always welcome constructive, suggestive criticism. The teachers would always find access to him easy for the discussion of any subject.

A vote of thanks was then tendered to the Keewaydin Club and fittingly replied to. Just at this juncture a revolution occurred. The officers of the party were deposed and a new government was installed under the leadership of Mr. W. J. Dunlop, the editor of *The School*, who was supplied with an axe as his symbol of authority. No one uttered a peep — his argument was too convincing. Where, then, were "The Boys of the Old Brigade?" One by one they were called to the front and compelled to accept souvenirs — expressions of the appreciation of the party for the way they had managed the affairs of the trip for the week.

We were accompanied to the wharf by the officers of the camping party and were heartily cheered as we steamed away on our return trip. A balmy air and a dreamy haze that rested on the distant hills gave a mellow tone to the sunny landscape, and exquisitely capped the pleasure of a happy week. Two of the teachers were seen flirting — yes, flirting — with the captain; and they seemed to be successful, for he allowed them, in turn, to take charge of the wheel (under his supervision) as we wound our way along the tortuous lake.

Who was not hungry that Saturday night? Not one of us but showed ample appreciation of the substantial supper that awaited us; and at twilight we started on our way South. North Bay had sent a very pressing invitation to stay with them over Sunday; but while we appreciated the invitation, we were compelled to decline until another year. Were we not on our way home, and were we not due to arrive there on Sunday morning early?

Saturday night has always been the time for home pranks and harmless fun, and it was no exception in our family. Some one organized a parade through the train, and those who did not join in the parade willingly were hauled out and carried away as captives. One of our gentlemen, not satisfied with the advantages with which Nature had supplied him, borrowed a white coat and suitable hat from one of the porters, and in that disguise made complaint to the Secretary, when we were at North Bay, that he had not received a single tip since he had been on the train. Fraser's Scotch ancestry was well-known to all, and those in the conspiracy stood around to watch what success the porter would have; and when the Secretary, who knew there had been trouble about the tips, and knew also that he had himself paid every porter liberally, broke out in a fit of mirth — the only one he indulged in during the whole week — there was a howl of mirth on all sides. It might be mentioned that this embryo porter was more successful with the Chairman, and was so good an imitation that he had the pleasure of helping the young ladies of his car to their upper berths.

Chairman Bryson's attack of nervous indigestion during the night caused some of the party an anxious time; but the hours passed away as the train sped on, and by daylight we had reached places that had been familiar to us for many years. One by one the members of the party dropped off the train at various stations, and when we pulled into the Union Station the bonds were loosened and in five minutes the whole brood had scattered to the four winds of Heaven. But it is whispered round that more than pleasant memories and improved methods of teaching geography have resulted from that happy week. Sh! — not another word.

We cannot allow the story to end without expressing our appreciation of those who contributed, in no small measure, to the success of the excursion — the Grand Trunk Railway officials for the attention that was paid to our comfort and the courtesy that was shown to us on all occasions — the T. and N. O. and the Canadian Transcontinental Railways and their divisional superintendents, who travelled with us part of the way — to the Mayors and the Town Councils, to the Presidents and Secretaries of the Boards of Trade, to the Chairmen and members of the School Boards, to the Ladies' Aids and the Women's Institutes, and to every one who

met us in that great Northland — and last but not least, to the Drury Government, including Mr. Grant, the Minister of Education, and to the members of the Legislature, without whose assistance our trip could never have been realized.

At practically every Teachers' Institute the report of the trip was given, and was said to have been the most interesting item on the programme; and no doubt thousands of teachers will do as Principal Sanderson, at Cochrane, said he would do when he returned home: "I shall teach the geography of Northern Ontario quite differently from what I have in the past." If so, the money spent will have been well spent; and it is hoped the Legislature will again make provision for the trip that is planned for August, 1921 — for a new set of teachers and a new itinerary, showing other phases of our illimitable North.

CHARLES G. FRASER,
Secretary of the Committee.

